

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 924-26 Oak Street n/a not for publication
city, town Kansas City n/a vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64105

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
n/a

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director Date 1/17/96
Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/mortuary

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/trade/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and early 20th century Revivals

Other: Second Egyptian Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Granite

Brick

roof Asphalt

other n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY: The Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building, 924-926 Oak Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, is a two story commercial building executed in the Second Egyptian Revival style of architecture. Located on the northeastern fringe of Kansas City's Central Business District, the building is flanked by larger scale commercial structures to the north and south. The building evokes Egyptian sources that are characterized by the fluted gorge and roll cornice, the massive columns bound by horizontal bands that allude to rope, the fenestration's punctuation of the wall plane, and the lotus leaf motif employed as a decorative element. Only the facade, or east elevation, is ornamented. The north and south elevations abut adjacent buildings and the west elevation is clad in brick. The Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building has experienced few exterior alterations, the most pronounced being the fire escape installation on the west (rear) elevation. The streetscape still presents the uniform setback common to the Central Business District. The building retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, in addition to integrity of location.

ELABORATION: The facade, or east elevation, faces Oak Street. The rectangular building has a reinforced concrete frame, a flat roof, and smooth-faced, coursed ashlar granite as the surface material. Only the east elevation is exposed to the street and the design clearly presents a tomb-like quality. Massive, rose tone granite courses form the high foundation which is pierced by attenuated basement windows with iron gates at the sidewalk level. The main block of the building is composed of small granite courses that visually distinguish the raised foundation from the first and second stories. The first floor is three bays wide and has a central entrance flanked by windows. The second floor breaks this rhythm through the introduction of paired windows adjacent to the central door.

The facade's sedate ornamentation integrates carved rope-like molding into the granite courses. These moldings outline the edges of the facade; the projecting wall plane that marks the fenestration; and the base of the fluted, cavetto cornice. The first floor windows are deeply recessed within the projecting wall plane. This wall plane is further articulated with the rope moldings and a heavy, carved cornice with a decorative bud-like motif. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building

cornice line is similarly stated above the deeply recessed entrance. The walls and ceiling that lead to the paired door entry rely upon the rope-like motif to accent rectangular panels tooled into the granite. The subtle surface relief at the entrance is enhanced by two columns that rise to the second story, terminating in bud-like capitals that are tied with horizontal bands. These columns achieve full expression on the second story as they support the cornice and create an open arcade. An iron balustrade reiterates the lotus bud motif between the second story columns. The second story fenestration consists of five bays that are located on the recessed wall plane. The overall composition of the main facade is one of projecting and receding wall planes that reflect the voids of the fenestration and doorways. The crowning element of the facade is a low pitched, pedimented parapet that extends the cavetto cornice to reaffirm the line of the wall plane. No alterations have been undertaken on the facade.

The north and south elevations abut adjacent buildings. A fire escape has been added to the rear, or west elevation, and extends from the third to the second story. The rear elevation is divided on its first story level into three bays--one drive-in bay and two doorways. The second and third stories are each divided into six bays filled with one-over-one window sash.

Although the interior space of the Stine and McClure Building does not reflect the Second Egyptian style of architecture, it displays many fine classical elements which survive today. The main entrance leads to a central hallway which is crowned with a barrel ceiling. Decorative cornices with dentils, wood door and window surrounds, and wood floors adorn the front rooms. Fluted Corinthian columns flank the entrances into the adjoining parlors, which are now utilized as offices, and the chapels, which now serves as engraving rooms. The tile floor in the hallway is original.

A few changes were made to the original McKecknie floor plan, including transferring a staircase next to the "choir room"--now storage--to an area near the "private room"--now an office. When the building was taken over by Siegrist Printing Company, the walls between the original chapels, dressing areas, family room, north hall, and morgue were opened up to accommodate the engraving presses and work space. Most of the rear windows were enclosed. Although the interior space has had a few alterations, they do not affect the significance of this building as a premier example of Second Egyptian Revival architecture.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1912

Significant Dates

1912

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

McKecknie, John, Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY: The Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building, 924-926 Oak Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The Second or Neo-Egyptian Revival style was rarely employed in Kansas City. Constructed in 1912, the Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building persists as the sole known Kansas City example of the exotic style expressed in a commercial building. The building is further significant as an excellent example of the work of John McKecknie, a prolific Kansas City architect whose practice led to numerous structural and design innovations. The Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building demonstrates McKecknie's solid grounding in the use of academic historicism to decorate a commercial building.

ELABORATION: John McKecknie (1862-1934) has been recognized as one of Kansas City's most prolific and skilled architects. He was born in Clarksville, Ohio, in 1862 and attended the public schools there. In 1880, he entered Wilmington College and studied for two years before enrolling in a four-year classical curriculum at Princeton University. Upon graduation from Princeton in 1886, McKecknie worked first for the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences as an architecture professor, and later for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where he supervised the installation of an architectural history collection that included full-sized sections of the Parthenon, the Temple of Vespasian, and models of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. In 1895, his academic tastes were refined during a European trip to document and draw Italian churches. The main body of this work was published in the Architectural Record in 1896 and 1897 to support Professor William H. Goodyear's theory that mathematical regularity in buildings of the past was the exception rather than the rule.

In 1898, McKecknie moved to Kansas City, Missouri, and began work as an architect for the Huckle & Sexton Contracting and Building Company. By 1900, he had opened his own office and practiced alone until 1914, when he formed a partnership with Frank Trask. McKecknie's initial years in Kansas City

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building

coincided with its first boom period of the twentieth century. From 1900 to 1910, the population grew 54 percent. Kansas City's annexation of land to the south and the substantial development of the parks and boulevard system encouraged an increase in commercial and residential construction.

Although many architects had an opportunity to contribute to the city's emerging form, McKecknie received particular attention because of his experimentation with concrete construction. Following the innovations of Ernest Ransome's California work in reinforced concrete, McKecknie began applying the principles of reinforcing concrete with iron rods to skyscraper construction. His first effort, the Gumbel Building (1905), 801-03 Walnut Street, was a pioneering six story commercial building of reinforced concrete faced in terra-cotta and fitted with Chicago Commercial-style windows. With the Gumbel Building, McKecknie also demonstrated his extensive repertoire of historic styles by introducing Roman elements on the facade. In 1907, he designed a twelve story building at 921 Walnut, the Gloyd Building, which allowed each floor to be treated as a loft, without interior columns interrupting the floor space. Other reinforced concrete buildings designed by McKecknie include the Floyd Lumber Company at 1900-36 Campbell (1907) and 6200 St. John Avenue. McKecknie's practice produced some 120 buildings in Kansas City, including commercial structures, single family residences, and apartments.

McKecknie has been credited with introducing to Kansas City the characteristic and now ubiquitous apartment building distinguished by its column-supported porches. In 1900, The Pergola Apartment on the Paseo (demolished) set a precedent for such multiple unit buildings in Kansas City, and, in McKecknie's own words should "merge into the general scheme, and their design be made to harmonize with the public improvements." This search to complement parkways and boulevards with tasteful architecture was repeated along Armour Boulevard and seemed to infuse all residential work McKecknie executed. Numerous single family dwellings designed by McKecknie incorporated historic or contemporary styles into original essays.

During the early twentieth century, archaeological explorations and discoveries inspired a renewed public interest in Egyptian architecture. Although stylistic variants had first appeared in the 1830s and 1840s within the Neo-Classical movement along the East Coast, the Egyptian Revival became an idiom in the western United States only in the twentieth century, as architects explored the decorative potential of reinforced concrete. With the advent of movie palaces and grand vaudeville houses, the interest in other cultures, such as those of the Egyptians and the Mayans, and in the cultures of the Far East,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building

was translated into an architecture of illusion. The Egyptian Revival style enjoyed its greatest vogue in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building is architecturally significant as a fine example of the Egyptian Revival mode of architecture. McKecknie's design, constructed in 1912, also anticipated the popularity of the style by almost a decade. The building represents Kansas City's best expression of the twentieth century interest in Egyptian sources. The stylistic sources of the Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building evoke appropriate references to the Egyptian preoccupation with death and were obviously suitable as a referential style for a mortuary building. The building projects a tomb-like quality derived from the smooth surface finish in granite and the juxtaposition of voids against solids. It also displays McKecknie's knowledge of historic styles, his strong academic training and his appreciation of innovative construction techniques. The reinforced concrete building stands as an early adaptation of the Egyptian style that recalled historic sources for a mortuary. Although only two stories high, it sustains a monumental presence due to the dense facade and massive expression of columns and openings. The Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building is clearly an outstanding example of McKecknie's ability to adapt to the client's needs as well as design contemporary buildings in historical idioms.

The building's construction in 1912 was undertaken amid surroundings of much larger buildings sited within Kansas City's Central Business District and the Midtown area. The decade from 1910-1920 accounted for eighty-four new buildings within the Central Business District and a real estate boom in Midtown--between 17th and Main Streets--after the completion of Union Station in 1914. The comparatively diminutive scale and revivalist qualities of the Stine and McClure Building may account for the lack of attention originally accorded the unusual construction. It was not then recognized as innovative in design but was seen rather as a reflection of conservative taste. Historicism was typically attributed to other styles during this period, most notably Gothic or Classical. As stated in an overview of the period:

. . . Kansas City's generally conservative taste . . . acted as a restraint on even the most aesthetically aware architects, such as John McKecknie. We saw him as a structural and design leader as early as 1904. By 1910 he was doing academically eclectic works more typical of the period, such as the Grand Avenue Temple Office Building at Ninth

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building

Street.¹

Nevertheless, the Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building is clearly one of McKecknie's finest small-scale commercial buildings and his only expression of the Second Egyptian Revival mode of architecture.

The Stine and McClure Undertaking Company occupied this site until 1928 when the firm erected a new facility at 3235 Gillham Road and leased the Oak Street space to the General Utilities Company. The building currently houses the Siegrist Engraving Company.

¹George Ehrlich, Kansas City, Missouri: An Architectural History, 1826-1976 (Kansas City, Mo.: Historic Kansas City Foundation, 1979), pp. 79 and 81.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Building Permit #51384 (12/04/11)
Building Permit #10506 (04/03/12)
Kansas City Times, April 27, 1943
Kansas City Times, June 12, 1966
Water Permit #1455 (1912)
Kansas City Journal Post, August 18, 1929
"John McKecknie, architect" by Sherry Piland, January 1981, Landmarks Commission,
Kansas City, Missouri
Preliminary Survey Form, Landmarks Commission, Kansas City, Missouri

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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3	6	3	5	1	5
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4	3	2	9	1	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing
C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing
D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Lot 2, Block 3, T.A. Smarts Addition, Kansas City,
Jackson County, Missouri.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with
the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	1. Andrea Lazarski	date	July, 1988
organization	Landmarks Commission	telephone	816/274-2555
street & number	414 E. 12th Street, City Hall	state	Missouri
city or town	Kansas City	zip code	64106

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 11 Page 1

Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building

2. Steven E. Mitchell
National Register Historian
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
DPRHP/HPP
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Date: May 30, 1990
Telephone: 314/751-5368

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1 Stine and McClure Undertaking Company Building

The following information is the same for all photographs:

STINE AND MCCLURE UNDERTAKING COMPANY BUILDING
924-26 Oak Street
Kansas City, Missouri
Melanie Betz
September, 1987
Negative Location: Landmarks Commission of Kansas City
City Hall, 26th Floor East
414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

#1
Facade, looking west.

#2
Detail of capitol on facade.

#3
Rear elevation, looking northeast.

The photographs were field checked May, 1990 and accurately depict the current condition of the property.

Stine & McClure Undertaking Co. Bldg.
924-26 Oak St., Kansas City, MO.
M. Betz, photographer Sept., 1987
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, MO
Front Facade, looking West
photograph 1 of 3



Stine & McClure Undertaking Co., Bldg.
924-26 Oak St., Kansas City, MO
M. Betz, photographer, Sept., 1987
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, MO.
Detail of Capitol
Photograph #2 of 3



Stine and McClure Undertaking Co. Bldg.
924-26 Oak St., Kansas City, MO
M. Betz, photographer, Sept, 1987
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, MO.
Rear Facade, looking Northwest
Photograph #3 of 3

